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SAINTS & SINNERS

April 9, 1962

I am happy to make a few remarks on the state of Anglo-American relations.

When I came here, over a year ago, I found myself, as American Ambassador confronting a challenging situation. The relationship between our two countries had been in a flourishing state.

Almost immediately, Washington ordered a budgetary cut in our operations. It was evident that a new broom should sweep clean. If everything was satisfactory, how could we best economize, and reduce the force of the seven hundred odd employees of the American Government, over half of them British Citizens, in the Embassy and our eight Consulates? Indeed, seldom has so little been accomplished by so many.

I set myself as quickly as possible to the correction of this euphoric condition. It seemed to me that if we were on bad terms with you, substantial economies in our local bureaucracy could be effected.

I noticed that members of my staff were often absent from our architectural masterpiece on Grosvenor Square. Allegedly, they were frequenting the Foreign Office, the Treasury, and other agencies of the British Government.

I resolved to put an end, if practicable, to this state of affairs. It was obvious that the true interests of the American Government were being sabotaged by the good understanding that existed between our services.

Members of my Embassy were not sent abroad to make friends and influence people. On the contrary, fired by missionary zeal, they should busy themselves in offering to the old world the wisdom of the new.

I can now report that, as a result of my policy, there has been a steady deterioration in the relationship between our two countries. I bear grateful testimony to the contributions of the British press in this connection.

I think, too, that my own speeches, though there are still pockets of your population I have not addressed, have contributed their mite to a commendable confusion.

It is also gratifying to note that during my incumbency of office, the number of pickets outside our Embassy has steadily increased. At the beginning of my term, only a few casuals, fulminating against the United States because the Soviets had resumed bomb testing, were on duty.

Now, thanks to successful American propaganda, we are responsible for weekend and holiday employment for placard carriers, who point out the iniquities of our non-recognition of Communist China, our boycott of Cuban cigars, our desire to exterminate human life on this planet, and other desiderata of American Foreign Policy.

I feel I have made considerable progress in creating misunderstanding of American aims and motives. Given another year or two, perhaps by the further application of imagination, I can succeed in severing all contacts between our Embassy and agencies of the British Government, and consequently will be able to apply Parkinson's Law in reverse.

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